

HUMANITIES  WEST PRESENTS

# ISFAHAN

Imperial Persia's Glittering Jewel

*Imperial Persia's Glittering Jewel*  
A production by the Near East Studies Department  
at the University of California, Berkeley

May 14 and 15, 2004

HERBST THEATRE, SAN FRANCISCO

*presented in cooperation with the Silkroad Foundation, the San Francisco Bay Area Rug Society, the Department of  
Near East Studies at UC Berkeley, Payvand, the Iranian Federated Women's Club, Global Exchange,  
the Iranian-American Chamber of Commerce, and the Mechanics' Institute Library*



# ISFAHAN : Imperial Persia's Glittering Jewel

Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

Friday, May 14, 8 - 10 PM

Isfahan is Half the World

8:00 PM Lecture **SAFAVID IRAN: FRIEND OR FOE?**

Prize-winning historian **ABBAS MILANI** paints in deft, colorful strokes an image of Iranian society in this golden age and the role it played in international politics, focusing on the capital city of Isfahan as the perfect metaphor for the aspirations of Safavid royalty, particularly Shah Abbas.

9:00 PM Performance Classical and folk dances from the Isfahan region performed by **NEY NAVA** dance troupe, led by **SHIDA PEGAHI**.

Saturday, May 15, 10 AM – 4:30 PM

Jewel of the Safavids

10:00 AM Lecture **THE CITY OF ISFAHAN AND ITS GLORIOUS ARCHITECTURE**

In moving the capital of Persia to Isfahan, Shah Abbas set out to create a glorious showplace of art, culture, and religion, to which travelers, ambassadors, and merchants from Europe and Asia would eagerly travel. **JOHANNA MOVASSAT** will explore the beauty of Isfahan and the key role of Shah Abbas in the planning of his imperial city.

11:00 AM Lecture **MINIATURE PAINTINGS OF THE SAFAVID PERIOD**

Miniature painters fostered by the Safavid court produced dazzling works of art that often broke new ground in their restricted genre. **CAREL BERTRAM** will analyze the aesthetics of Persian miniatures and explain their narrative function.

**12:00–1:30 PM Break for Lunch**

1:30 PM Demonstration **CLASSICAL IRANIAN MUSIC FROM THE ISFAHAN-SHIRAZ REGION**

**MAHMOUD ZOUFONOUN AND ENSEMBLE** will play selected classical pieces and offer a demonstration of the authentic instruments on which they perform.

2:15 PM Lecture **THE IMAGINED EMBRACE: CHRISTIANS AND JEWS UNDER THE SAFAVIDS**

The Safavid Dynasty proclaimed Twelver Shiite Islam as the state religion, and its rulers embarked on a rigorous campaign to convert muslims and non-muslims of Iran to Shiism. **JALEH PIRNAZAR** will discuss the status and treatment of religious minorities in Safavid Iran through an examination of contemporary texts.

3:10 PM Lecture **CARPETS, TEXTILES AND OTHER APPLIED ARTS OF THE SAFAVIDS**

Persian carpets are prized for their exquisite designs and colors, and carpets from Isfahan above all. But the Safavids excelled in metalwork, ceramics, and other areas of the applied arts as well. **WALTER B. DENNY** will discuss the best in these fields.

*Professor Denny's participation is underwritten in part by the San Francisco Bay Area Rug Society.*

4:00 PM **CONCLUDING PANEL DISCUSSION** with all lecturers

*index cards for written questions from the audience are in the lobby and available from the ushers*





## ABOUT OUR PRESENTERS

**CAREL BERTRAM** is Associate Professor in the Department of Humanities at San Francisco State University (SFSU). She received her Ph.D. in Art History from University of California at Los Angeles (1998) on the art and architectural history of the pre-modern and early modern middle East. She previously taught at the Department of Art History and the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at The University of Texas at Austin. At SFSU, she teaches courses on the many varieties of visual culture of Islam and on the interaction between the historical mixture of cultures in the Middle East.

**WALTER B. DENNY** is Professor of Art History at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, where he has taught since 1970. Dr. Denny has also been Honorary Curator of Carpets and Textiles at the Harvard University Art Museums for three decades. His recent books include *Gardens of Paradise: Turkish Tiles 15th-17th Centuries* (Istanbul 1998), and *The Sotheby's Guide to Oriental Carpets* (New York, 1994). He has curated over a dozen exhibitions, including the recent "Images of Paradise in Islamic Art" (Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, 1991-92), "Court and Conquest" (Equitable Gallery and Kent State University Art Museum, 1998-99) and "Reflections of an Ideal World" (Islamic Arts Museum, Malaysia, 1999). Professor Denny has served as a trustee of The Textile Museum in Washington, and presently serves on advisory committees for several museums, including two Visiting Committees of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

**ABBAS MILANI** is a research fellow at the Hoover Institution and a Professor of Political Science at Stanford University. He taught in Iran, at Tehran University's Law School from 1979 to 1986. Milani is the author of numerous publications, including *The Persian Sphinx: Amir Abbas Hoveyda and the Riddle of the Iranian Revolution* (Mage, 2000); *Modernity and Its Foes in Iran* (Gardoon Press, 1998); and *Tales of Two Cities: A Persian Memoir* (Mage, 1996). His latest book is *Rethinking Persian Modernity* (forthcoming). He has been interviewed for radio and television, appearing on the BBC, CNN, Radio France, Radio Farda, Radio Free Europe, Radio and Television of Iran, and Voice of America. Milani received his BA in political science and economics from the University of California at Berkeley in 1970 and his PhD in political science from the University of Hawaii in 1974.

**JOHANNA D. MOVASSAT** received MA and Ph.D. degrees from the University of California, Berkeley, in Near Eastern Studies: Art and Archaeology. She is a Lecturer in Art History at San Jose State University and has written and presented on numerous topics on pre-Islamic and Islamic art. She has traveled extensively in the Middle East and visited Iran, where she photographed numerous Sassanian and Islamic sites. Dr. Movassat is a lecturer for docent training at the Asian Art Museum in the Arts of the Near East and Islamic arts, and a book, *Late Sassanian Royal Art: The Large Vault at Taq-I Bustan*, Mellen Press, is forthcoming this year.

**JALEH PIRNAZAR** was born and raised in Iran where she completed her high school education in Tehran. She continued her studies at University of California in Berkeley in the School of Optometry in the 1970's before she changed majors and earned a B.A. in Comparative Literature focusing on English and French literatures. She went on to graduate school in the Near Eastern Studies department at U.C. and received her M.A. and PhD in Persian literature, Turkish literature and modern Iranian history. Dr. Pirnazar has been teaching Persian language and literature in the Near Eastern Studies department for over 20 years and contributes articles to literary journals and research magazines on Iranian studies. She lectures and writes on Iranian history, women and minorities in Iran.

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## A PARTIAL HISTORY OF ISFAHAN AND THE SAFAVID DYNASTY (1501 TO 1722)

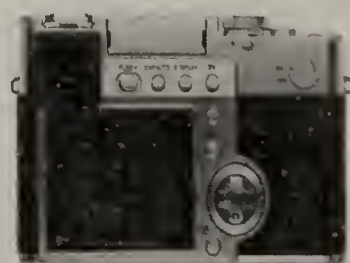
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|---|--|
| <p>1565-1635 Artist Riza Abbasi</p> <p>1588 Spanish Armada defeated by English fleet.</p> <p>1587-1629 Shah Abbas I pushes back the Ottomans, Uzbeks, and Mughals. Puts textile and carpet production and the silk trade under state control. Foreign traders travel accounts enliven our knowledge of daily life in 17<sup>th</sup> century Iran. The European visitors bring prints and oil paintings that influence the local art scene.</p> <p>1590-95 Maidan-I Imam (Square of the Imam, the Royal Square) constructed</p> <p>1597/98 Two English knights, Anthony Sherley and his brother Robert arrive and offer their services as mercenaries. One helped to train the Shah's army and the other, employed as a diplomat, helped gain European support for the campaign against the Turks</p> <p>Isfahan becomes the capital of Iran under Shah Abbas.</p> <p>1597-1660 Ali Qapu</p> <p>1602 Allahverdi Khan Bridge (Si-O She Pol – 33 Arches Bridge)<br/>Arcades around Maidan</p> <p>1604 New Julfa, completed</p> <p>1603-1618 Mosque of Shaykh Lotfollah</p> <p>1611-1629 Mosque of the Imam (Shah Mosque)</p> <p>1617 Figueroa, Ambassador of Philip III of Spain arrives in Isfahan</p> <p>1619-1620 Bazaar (Qaysariyya) Portal, completed</p> <p>1622 Abbas ousts the Portuguese from Hormuz using ships of the British East India Company, regains control of trade through the Persian Gulf. British diplomatic embassy arrives headed by Sir Dodmore Cotton.</p> <p>1637 Shah Safi (1629-1642) loses Baghdad and Qandahar. His chief minister governs for him, maintaining some stability.<br/>Chardin visits from France</p> <p>1642-66 Shah Abbas II is a better administrator, but along with his successor, Sulayman, falls under religious influences and Jews, Christians and nonconformist Muslims all face persecution. Empire declines</p> <p>1647 Chehel Sutun pavilion begun</p> <p>1660 Khwaju Bridge, completed.</p> <p>1665 Louis XIV of France sends envoys to Iran with portraits of himself and prints by the artist Francois Mazot.</p> <p>1666 Sulayman (1666-94) commissioned the Hasht Bihisht and the Talar-I Ashraf.</p> <p>1669 Hasht Behesht, completed</p> <p>1694-1722 Sultan Husayn</p> <p>1706-1714 Maadrasa-yi Madar-I Shah<br/>(School/University of the Mother of the Shah)</p> <p>1709 The Ghalzai Afghans revolt and occupy</p> | <p>Qandahar. March on Kirman and Isfahan in 1719.</p> <p>1722 Isfahan falls. Peter the Great of Russia occupies Darband and Baku in 1723, and the Ottomans invade Azerbaijan in 1726. Iran cedes lands in Kurdistan, Azerbaijan, and Georgia.</p> <p>1726 Nadir Quili of the Afshar tribe puts Tahmasp II on the throne. He rids Persia of its Afghan invaders, and between 1730 and 1735 regains all the territory lost to the Ottomans and expels the Russians as well. Abbas III succeeds as the Safavid shah after Tahmasp is killed.</p> <p>1736 Nadir Quli crowns himself and marks the beginning of the Afsharid Dynasty.</p> <p>1739 Nadir Shah loots Delhi in India, Mughal riches are brought back to Iran.</p> <p>1750 A tribesman from the Zand tribe, Karim Khan, reigns as a regent of another puppet Safavid shah. Reigns for 30 years in Shiraz and his patronage of art and literature allows Safavid traditions to continue.</p> |
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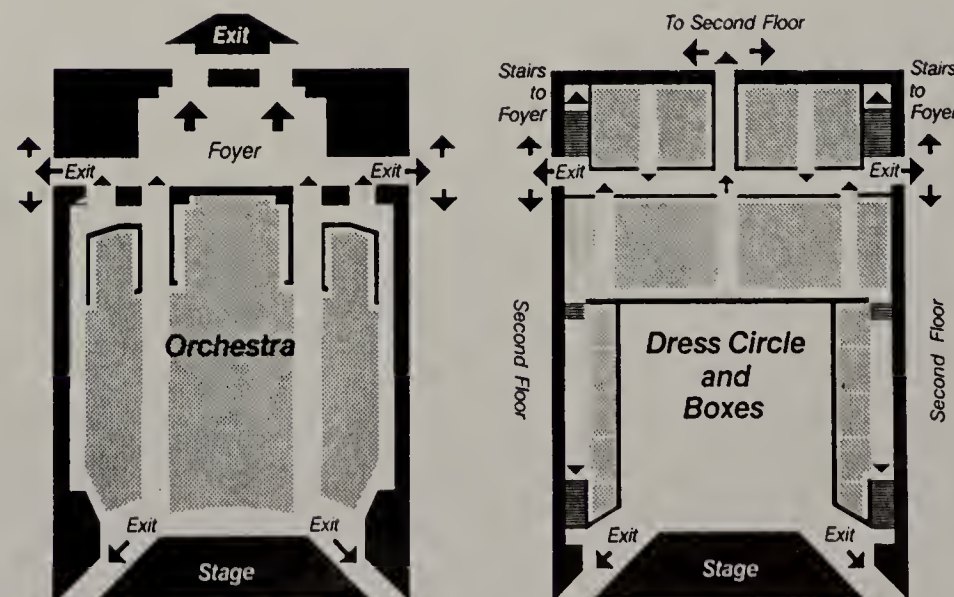
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# ISFAHAN: Imperial Persia's Glittering Jewel

Friday, May 14, 2004 Performance Notes

## **Ney Nava Dance Theatre** **Artistic Director and Founder: Shida Pegahi**

### **Performance**

1. **Zarb O Zang (Drums and Bells)**
2. **Bazak (Makeup)**
3. **Chehel Sutun Suite**
  - a) **Parichehr O Parizad**
  - b) **Esfahan**
  - c) **Chehl Sutun**
4. **Roonama (Wedding Dance)**

### **Dancers**

**Shida Pegahi**  
**Anaite Arnold**  
**Maya Rogel**  
**Andrea Anzalone**

### **ABOUT THE COMPANY**

Based in Southern California, **Ney Nava Dance Theatre** was founded in 1994 by Shida Pegahi. The company's mission is to preserve traditional Persian dance as well as to expand dance form of Iran with creative new choreography. Ney Nava has performed at hundreds of events in various large and some intimate settings. **Shida Pegahi** is a native of Iran who has studied at the National Ballet Academy of Iran and at the School of Royal Ballet in England. Starting at the age of eight, she trained extensively and rigorously in classical ballet, modern, jazz, ethnic and the cultural traditions of Persian form. She has also studied and performed ethnic dance categories including African, classical Saudi Arabian and Eastern European. Asian and the regional dances of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Armenia. Ms. Pegahi received her B.A. from Ohio University. For several years she performed with the West Coast Dance Company, Westside Balley Company, Avaz International Dance Theatre, the Sufi Dance Theatre, and Dance Electric.ltural arts



## ISFAHAN

## Imperial Persia's Glittering Jewel

May 14 and 15, 2004

At Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Avenue (at McAllister), San Francisco

presented in cooperation with the Silkroad Foundation, Payvand,

the Iranian Women's Cultural Federation, the Department of Near Eastern Studies at UC Berkeley,  
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Cuerla Seca tile panel, Isfahan, early 17th c.

Georges Marçais, in an address given in Algiers in 1940, on the Islamic garden, said "gardens are remarkable documents on the character and life of those who created them or for whom they were created, or those who only desired such things." He continues, "if the garden is revealing of an individual, it is surely more so of the groups of men that make up a nation..." For instance, he says, knowing the park of Versailles informs the viewer of the idea of Louis XIV's conception of his monarchy and sense of grandeur in observing the environment he created for his court. The Islamic garden, the origin of which he attributes to Persia and specifically, Iran, is a reflection of the dream of a better life, a paradise.

The Persian (Farsi) word for garden is 'firdaus', which the Greeks under Alexander the Great pronounced as Paradaiza, or Paradise. The word derives from 'peri' (around) and 'daeza' or 'diz' (wall, brick, or shape). Such is the fulfillment when one arrives and is surrounded by a living carpet of trees, flowers and water. The Persian garden is a place of rest, a place where Phyllis Ackerman says man should "be, not do, find his soul and leave it to exist." It was the trees of the gardens that sheltered the nightingale and its sweet song. The gardens were used as outdoor rooms when the scorching day had finally cooled a bit. There, lit with lanterns, guests assembled, drank conversed and competed at poetry.

Continued on Page 6

## ISFAHAN PERFORMANCE

FRIDAY EVENING

9:00 PM *Isfahan--AVAZ*

SATURDAY

1:30 PM *Mahmoud Zoufonoun Ensemble*





Riza I-Abbasi engraving

## HW BOARD NOTES

Welcome to our newest board member, **Austris Vitol**, who was elected for a 3 year term in March.

### Cooperating Institution Events

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE LIBRARY  
Thursday, May 27

#### TANGIBLE MEMORIES: CALIFORNIANS AND THEIR GARDENS: 1800-1950

Judith M. Taylor, M.D.

This inspiring book examines how Californians, from the Franciscan missionaries, to the newly rich during the Gold Rush to the successive waves of immigrants from all over the world, have all loved their gardens and helped to shape California's cities and towns.

At Mechanics' Institute Library,  
4th Floor, 57 Post Street, SF  
Members free; Public \$5  
Reception at 6:00 pm  
Author Event at 6:45 pm  
For reservations, call (415) 393-0100

## Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends:

It has been a very exciting 20th Anniversary Season at Humanities West. Our regular Fall and Winter programs on St. Petersburg and France after WW II offered the quality exploration of time and place that are the trademark of HW. Our November Anniversary Celebration allowed us to reflect on HW's own diverse history, and our recent one-day program on "Lens Culture" carved new territory with its multi-sector examination of photographic imaging. We appreciate all who have supported and participated in our expanded season.

We now prepare for our May 14 and 15 journey to **Isfahan** and to three new destinations in our 2004-2005 season: On October 15 and 16, we will visit the lesser known **Italian Gems** of Renaissance Italy with a look at the cities of Padova, Urbino and Ferrara. Painters such as Dossi and Giotto, the poet Petrarch, and the earlier works of the architect Brunelleschi (famous for his design of the Cupola of Florence's Duomo) will be among the subjects explored. On February 11 and 12, 2005, the treasures and beauty of **Imperial Beijing** will offer a look at the grandeur and intrigue of the Forbidden City, a taste of Beijing Opera, and a brief look at the changes in the city's structure during the Ming Dynasty. In the Spring we will collaborate with the Mechanics' Institute Library in celebrating its sesquicentennial with a program dedicated to **Mark Twain in the West**. Twain (Samuel Clemens) wrote about the Library, among many other happenings, during his days on the West Coast. We'll hear about the recent work of UC Berkeley's Mark Twain Project, and enjoy a sampling of Twain in song and stories from impersonator Jim Post.

Finally, I want to thank those of you who have contributed to the work of Humanities West by sharing your suggestions for future program topics. We accept suggestions on an ongoing basis, and will conduct our next survey at the Italian Gems program in the Fall. I hope to see you at Isfahan on May 14 and 15 for our grand finale of the season.

Sincerely,

*Silvia Mazzone-Clementi*

Silvia Mazzone-Clementi



### DanceTime! 2004 500 Years of Social Dance Craze...

WHEN Thursday May 6th at 8pm\*  
Friday May 7th at 8pm  
Saturday May 8th at 3pm & 8pm

WHERE ODC Theater  
3153 17th Street at Shotwell  
San Francisco, CA 94110

TICKETS ODC Box Office  
415 863 9834  
<http://www.ticketweb.com>  
General Admission: \$25  
Groups of six or more: \$20  
Students and Seniors: \$15  
\*Thursday Open Rehearsal: \$10



## Message from the Chairman

Dear Friends of Humanities West:

Welcome to **Isfahan: Imperial Persia's Glittering Jewel**, the fifth and final program of our expanded 20th Anniversary Season.

The opportunity to explore high Persian culture at the same point in history as the Renaissance in Europe is characteristic of what I treasure about Humanities West. I look forward to gaining insights into historical trends that may explain some of the features of the Middle East today. The glorious artistic achievements of the era are sure to delight me. And, I can be confident that all of this knowledge will be imparted by some of the foremost scholars and most dynamic lecturers in the country.

If you, too, want Humanities West always to be here to enjoy, I encourage you to consider making an additional donation to Humanities West before June 30 of this year.

Ticket sales provide only about a third of our revenue, and we depend on gifts from friends like you, as well as grants from charitable and governmental bodies, to fully fund our programs. In the wake of recession and terror, our ticket sales, donations, and grants have all slipped under budget.

We are well underway in a campaign to raise \$100,000 in additional funds in order to ensure that we can continue for another 20 years. We have already raised \$65,000, so our goal is tantalizingly within reach.

What will we do with the additional funds? They are needed for many things, such as being able to reimburse travel and lodging expenses for the best scholars and performers for our programs, wherever they may reside. In order to reserve Herbst Theater on our preferred weekend dates, we must make cash deposits before a single ticket has been sold. Sometimes, despite careful budgeting and planning, we need to hire speakers to fill in at the last moment for scheduled speakers who fall ill. Most of all, we need to broaden the publicity we receive in order to make the public aware of the pleasures we offer. Partly due to our unique format and partly because of the vast array of competing cultural offerings in the Bay Area, Humanities West is one of the best-kept secrets in town!

Please call the office if you have any questions about making a gift to Humanities West.

Sincerely,

*Charles W. Bowman*

Charles W. Bowman



*Plan of Isfahan as developed under Shah Abbas I.*

- 1) Old Maidan; 2) Friday Mosque; 3) Bazaar;  
4) New Maidan; 5) Bazaar portal;  
6) Mosque of Shaykh Lutfallah;  
7) Ali Qapu; 8) Shah Mosque;  
9) Chahar Bagh Avenue; 10) Si-o-se Pul

## Advertise in the HW Theatre Playbill

Advertise your business, make an announcement on behalf of an organization you belong to, or welcome a guest speaker to the program. The cost of an ad ranges from \$100 for business card size to \$1000 for a full-page advertisement. For more information, please call Humanities West at 415.391.9700.

## Planned Giving

A special thank you to those of you who are already including Humanities West in their estate planning. Consider including HW in your estate planning for the time when you become history!

For more information, please call Humanities West at 415.391.9700.



## ISFAHAN: IMPERIAL PERSIA'S GLITTERING JEWEL

Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Street (at McAllister), San Francisco

Friday, May 14 8:00 PM – 10:15 PM

### Isfahan is Half the World

- 8:00 pm     *Lecture*     **SAFAVID IRAN: FRIEND OR FOE?** The newly established Safavid Shiite regime suffered birth pangs comparable to the adjustments of contemporary Europe to the culture of the Renaissance. The Safavids and European monarchs collaborated against the Ottoman empire which had already conquered large parts of Europe and threatened to expand eastward into Iran as well. Prize-winning historian **ABBAS MILANI** (Research Fellow, Hoover Institution, and Professor of Political Science, Stanford University) paints in deft, colorful strokes an image of Iranian society in this golden age and the role it played in international politics, focusing on the capital city of Isfahan as the perfect metaphor for the aspirations of Safavid royalty, particularly Shah Abbas.
- 9:00 pm     *Performance*     Classical and folk dances from the Isfahan region performed by the AVAZ dance troupe, known for the authenticity and dynamism of its presentations, led by **KHOSROW JAMALI** with commentary by the eminent scholar, **ANTHONY SHAY**.

Saturday, Feb. 21, 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM

### Jewel of the Safavids

- 10:00 am     *Lecture*     **THE CITY OF ISFAHAN AND ITS GLORIOUS ARCHITECTURE** "Isfahan nesf-e jahan" said the Safavids; "Isfahan is half the world," and its architecture comes close to justifying this famous couplet. In moving the capital of Persia to Isfahan, Shah Abbas set out to create a glorious showplace of art, culture, and religion, to which travelers, ambassadors, and merchants from Europe and Asia would eagerly travel. Its beauty still remains as a center of exquisite art and architecture for the world to admire. Dr. Johanna Movassat (Lecturer in Art and Art History, San Jose State University), a popular lecturer on Asian architecture, is married to an Iranian and considers Isfahan her "second home." Her lecture will include consideration of the key role of Shah Abbas in the planning of his imperial city.
- 11:00 am     *Lecture*     **MINIATURE PAINTINGS OF THE SAFAVID PERIOD** Miniature painters fostered by the Safavid court produced dazzling works of art that often broke new ground in their restricted genre. Isfahan's artists, often using a single hair of the paintbrush, produced works of unsurpassed delicacy and detail, though simple in their themes and content: a princess bathing in a secluded stream; a king holding court. Professor **CATHERINE GLYNN BENKAIM** (University of California at Los Angeles) will analyze the aesthetics of Persian miniatures and explain their narrative function.
- Noon – 1:30 pm     **Break for Lunch**
- 1:30 pm     *Performance*     **CLASSICAL MUSIC FROM THE ISFAHAN-SHIRAZ REGION** Dr. Zoufonoun is probably the leading expert on classical Iranian music in the United States. His ensemble will play selected classical pieces and offer a demonstration of the authentic instruments on which they perform. Dr. Zoufonoun's pupil, Professor Manuchehr Ghiassi of Santa Clara University, will discuss the function and structure of the music.
- 2:00 pm     *Lecture*     **THE IMAGINED EMBRACE: CHRISTIANS AND JEWS UNDER THE SAFAVIDS** The Safavid Dynasty proclaimed Twelver Shiite Islam as the state religion, and its rulers embarked on a rigorous campaign to convert muslims and non-muslims of Iran to Shiism. What was the status of religious minorities in Safavid Iran? How were Christians, Jews, Sunnis and Sufis treated? Did the state have an interest in favoring one against another? Professor Jaleh Pirnazar, (Near Eastern Studies Department, UC Berkeley) will address these questions through an examination of contemporary texts.
- 3:00 pm     *Lecture*     **CARPETS, TEXTILES, AND OTHER APPLIED ARTS OF THE SAFAVIDS** Persian carpets are prized for their exquisite designs and colors, and carpets from Isfahan above all. But the Safavids excelled in metalwork, ceramics, and other areas of the applied arts as well. No one is better qualified to discuss the Safavid accomplishments in these fields than renowned art historian Walter B. Denny (University of Massachusetts at Amherst), a dynamic lecturer and a consultant to numerous museums and private collectors.
- 4:00 pm     *Panel discussion*     Audience questions to be addressed.



## Suggested Reading for Isfahan

Many books on this list are available or can be ordered from A Clean Well Lighted Place for Books in Opera Plaza. Other books should be easily found at a university or public library. The names of authors who are speakers at *Isfahan* are indicated in **bold** type.

Blair, Sheila S. and Jonathan M. Bloom, *The Art and Architecture of Islam 1250-1800* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1995).

Blunt, Wilfred, *Isfahan, Pearl of Persia* (New York, 1966).

**Denny, Walter**, *Gardens of Paradise: Ottoman Turkish Tiles of the 15th-17th Centuries* (Istanbul, 1998); *Masterpieces of Anatolian Carpets from the Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts, Istanbul* (Bern, 2001); *Ipek: Imperial Ottoman Silks and Velvets* (London, 2002); *The Classical Tradition in Anatolian Carpets* (Washington D.C., 2002) and *Iznik and the Ottoman Tradition* (Editions Citadelles et Mazenod, 2004).

Ferrier, R.W., *The Arts of Persia* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1989).

Gaube, Heinz, and Eugen Wirth, *Der Bazar von Isfahan* (Tubinger Atlas des Vorderen Orients, Beihefte, Reihe B, Weisbaden, 1978).

Grube, Ernst, "Wall Paintings in the Seventeenth Century Monuments of Isfahan" in *Iranian Studies* 7 (1974) : 511-42

Hobhouse, Penelope, *Gardens of Persia* (Kales Press, 2003).

Hillenbrand, Robert, "Safavid Architecture" in *The Timurid and Safavid Periods* (Edited P. Jackson. *Cambridge History of Iran*. Vol. 6. Cambridge, 1968) and *Islamic Art and Architecture* (Thames and Hudson, 1999).

Hunarfar, Lutfallah, *Ganjina-yi athar-i tarikhi-yi Isfahan* [A Treasury of the Historical Monuments of Isfahan] (2nd ed. Tehran, 1350/1977).

Luschey-Schmeisser, Ingeborg, *The Pictorial Tiles of Hast Behest in Isfahan and Its Iconographic Tradition* (Rome, 1978).

McChesney, Robert D., "Four Sources on Shah Abbas's Building of Isfahan" in *Muqarnas* 5 (1988).

**Milani, Abbas**, *The Persian Sphinx: Amir Abbas Hoveyda and the Riddle of the Iranian Revolution* (Mage, 2000); *Modernity and Its Foes in Iran* (Gardon Press, 1998); *Tales of Two Cities: A Persian Memoir* (Mage, 1996); *On Democracy and Socialism*, a collection of articles coauthored with Faramarz Tabrizi (Pars Press, 1987); *Malraux and the Tragic Vision* (Agah Press, 1982); and *Rethinking Persian Modernity* (forthcoming).

**Movassat, Johanna**, "Heritage of Islam," *Lotus Leaves*, (Society of Asian Art, 1998); Review, *Why Art? A Global and Humanistic Approach to Art Appreciation* (Harcourt Brace, 2000); and *Late Sasanian Royal Art: The Large Vault at Taq-i Bustan* (forthcoming, Mellen Press).

**Pirnazar, Jaleh**, "The Anusim of Mashhad" in *Esther's Children: A Portrait of Iranian Jews* (Jewish Publication Society, 2002); "Iranian Jews, National Identity, and Journalism: 1915-1979" in *The History of Contemporary Iranian Jews*, Vol. IV (Center for Iranian Jewish Oral History, 2000).

Pope, Arthur Upham, *Persian Architecture* (New York, 1965).

Robinson, Francis, ed, *Cambridge Illustrated History - Islamic World* (Cambridge University Press, 1996 and 1998).

Savory, Roger, *Iran under the Safavids* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1980).

Welch, Anthony, *Shah Abbas and the Arts of Isfahan* (New York: The Asia Society, 1973).



Travelers to Persia including Vita Sackville-West and Phyllis Ackerman have offered much the same description of their approach to any city in this desert region: After miles and miles of bare brown earth highlighted by the bright light of the sun, and views of shimmering pink mountains in the distance, at last one views a bit of green oasis beckoning in the distance, drawing you to it with a promise of repose and refreshment — a haven from the arid path. Such is Isfahan, home to the glories of Shah Abbas the Great, and his fabulous palaces and beautiful gardens, large city square and avenues lined with stately trees.

Isfahan was known as the city of gardens. The city plan of Isfahan is based on the traditional Persian garden. The city Shah Abbas I started with was a typical jumble of adobe huts and a jumbled street pattern. The Chahar Bagh avenue (chahar bagh is Persian for four gardens—the traditional division of the garden into four sections often using water—a reference to the four rivers in the Garden of Eden) was lined with oriental plane trees and with a central runnel and fountains, led from the palace down to the river, crossed it on the famous Bridge of 33 Arches, then ascended the opposite side to yet another great terraced garden, the Hazar Jarib, now partly the site of the modern university. The gardens were an antidote and antithesis to the surrounding arid landscape.

The time of Shah Abbas the Great, who reigned from 1587-1629, coincides with familiar names of European monarchs—Elizabeth I, Philip II, (think Armada) among others. In fact, two Englishmen traveled to Persia and as mercenaries helped the Shah to create an army to reclaim land from and defeat the Ottomans.

Many European travelers came to Isfahan, as the Shah encouraged such trade—he had caravansaries built, each a day's journey from the last, to ease the journey from the Caspian Sea to his chosen capital city of Isfahan.

Later travelers included the French jeweler, Chardin, in the time of Shah Abbas II, who would try to compare the Persian gardens with those of Versailles, and found some similarities, but did not fully realize that a completely different garden character was being expressed.

Imagine the experience of being inside a mosque, the floor of which is covered in rugs adorned with various designs of flowers, representations of the tree of life, and stylized water canals. It is touching a flat dimensional plane—a flat silk or wool garden. The view of a Persian garden from a balcony might appear to be a natural carpet—a feast for the eye, a promise of senses engaged on an anticipated stroll through colors and patterns and water and light.

One can find in the Persian garden a connection to each of the other arts—to the beautiful painted miniatures, to the poetry, to the fine woven carpets reflecting representations of flowers and water in the structure of earthly paradise. The garden is the golden thread that influences and invokes the beauty translated into words, imagery, textiles, tiles, and carpets. The decorative arts of Persia were inspired by the poets, who inspired the works of the miniaturists who in turn, used the garden to frame their subjects.



View of Isfahan, Grelot



## Sponsors, Patrons, and Fellows are Invited to the Speakers Dinner

We invite you to meet our lecturers at the **Speakers' Dinner** at the Herbst Theatre Lounge. *Sponsors, Patrons and Fellows of Humanities West* are invited to join program speakers for a private dinner on Friday evening, May 14 in the **Herbst Theatre Lounge**. We will convene at 6:00 p.m.

## Come meet our Speakers and Humanities West Friends at the Friends' Luncheon

*Friends of Humanities West* are invited to join us on Saturday, May 15, between the morning and afternoon sessions of the program for the **Friend's Luncheon**. The luncheon will be at **Indigo Restaurant**, located at 687 McAllister a short walk from the theatre. Guests will have a chance to break bread with speakers and fellow Humanities West supporters. Please sign up early as space is limited!

## Humanities West Welcomes Clubs & Associations

Humanities West offers ticket discounts and other privileges to groups of 10 or more if they include a Friend of Humanities West. Past groups include Delta Sigma Theta, Harvard Club, and Fordham Alumni Association. To request information for your group, call 415/391-9700.

## Speakers' Dinner and Friends Luncheon Reservations Form for the "Isfahan" Program

- ☐ Yes, I am a Sponsor, Patron or Fellow of Humanities West and would like to attend the Speakers' Dinner.

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) in my name for dinner Friday night, May 14, at the Herbst Theatre Lower Lounge, at 5:30 p.m. Enclosed is my check, payable to Humanities West, for \$65 per person.

- ☐ Yes, I am a Friend of Humanities West and would like to attend the Friends Luncheon.

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) in my name for luncheon at Indigo, 687 McAllister Street, on Saturday, May 15. Enclosed is a check, payable to Humanities West, for \$45 per person.

A letter of confirmation will be sent approximately two weeks prior to the event.

NAME

ADDRESS

## INDIVIDUAL TICKET ORDER FORM Isfahan: Imperial Persia's Glittering Jewel

May 14 and 15, 2004

Please order your tickets as soon as possible. **Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope** and mail to City Box Office with your order. Tickets will be mailed approximately 4 weeks prior to the program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL CITY BOX OFFICE 415/392-4400

### INDIVIDUAL TICKETS: ISFAHAN

ALL SEATING IS RESERVED	Orchestra/Dress Circle/Grand Tier Qty.	Balcony Qty.	Total
Friday & Saturday combo May 14 and 15	\$65 X	\$55 X	= \$
mail/fax order fee per combo ticket	\$ 4 X	\$ 4 X	= \$
Friday Evening May 14 8:00 pm-10:15 pm	\$35 X	\$30 X	= \$
Saturday Day May 15 10:00 am-4:30 pm	\$35 X	\$30 X	= \$
Student/Teacher (Balcony ONLY)		\$20 X	= (\$ )
mail/fax order fee per ticket	\$2.00 X	\$2.00 X	= \$
<b>TOTAL \$</b>			

- ☐ Enclosed is my check payable to CITY BOX OFFICE. Tickets are non-refundable. Luncheon is **not** included.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Charge my credit card: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard. Acct No: \_\_\_\_\_ Expires: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name on Card (print): \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE MAIL TO CITY BOX OFFICE and enclose stamped self-addressed envelope.  
 180 Redwood St., Suite 100, San Francisco, CA 94102. FAX: 415/986-0411**



# HUMANITIES WEST 2004-2005 SEASON



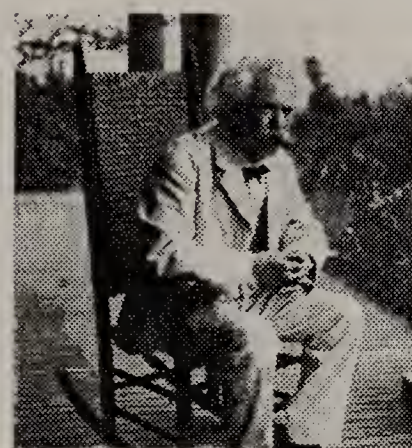
OCTOBER 15 & 16, 2004

ITALIAN GEMS: PADOVA, URBINO AND FERRARA



FEBRUARY 11 & 12, 2005

IMPERIAL BEIJING



MAY 13 & 14, 2005

MARK TWAIN IN THE WEST



H U M A N I T I E S   W E S T

57 Post Street, Suite 814

San Francisco, CA 94104

Isfahan

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